

12. (Amended) The protective cover of Claim 11 wherein said means for fastening said opposed longitudinal edges comprises hook and loop material.

28. (Amended) The system of Claim 27 wherein said fabric is formed from at least 70 percent high performance yarns.

31. (Twice Amended) The system of Claim 27 wherein said high performance yarns are formed from polymers selected from the group consisting of long chain polyethylenes, high strength aramids, liquid crystal polymers, and combinations thereof.

40. (Twice Amended) An abrasion-resistant rope that must be periodically moved or pulled across abrasive surfaces comprising an outer protective layer formed substantially from high performance yarns having a tensile modulus equal to or greater than 150 grams/denier and a tenacity equal to or greater than 7 grams/denier so that the protective layer is abrasion-resistant, cut-resistant, and tear-resistant.

Remarks

Claims 1-40 stand rejected. In furtherance of the Notice of Appeal filed on May 2, 2003, Applicant's Appeal Brief is filed contemporaneously herewith.

The Examiner states that the corrected or substitute drawings that were submitted on January 21, 2003 do not show the proper cross-hatching. Applicant respectfully disagrees. On Pages 7 and 8 of Applicant's specification, Applicant identifies items 64, 72 as rubber, and items 66, 74 as abrasion-resistant material (fabric). The cross-hatching for those materials is correctly used in Figures 5a and 5b of the pending application.

The Examiner has objected to Claims 1-13 under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of Claims 14-26. Accordingly, Applicant herein cancels Claims 14-26.

The Examiner objects to Claim 15 because it contains the term "strength". Since Claim 15 has been cancelled, there is no need to amend Claim 15; however, Claims 2 and 28 do